

WHY DID WE START EDUCATION AT WORK?

A college education should prepare you for “the real world” with the skills to land your dream job. But what happens when students don’t graduate with the right skills? Jobs go unfilled, the economy suffers, student debt levels rise, and financially burdened grads panic. Check out just how much the skills gap and student debt have grown — then see what you can do to succeed.

THE GROWING NUMBER OF COLLEGE STUDENTS AND THE GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

College-aged students (18-24) make up **9.9%** of the total US population

THAT’S 30.7 MILLION AMERICANS
A 14% INCREASE FROM 26.7 MILLION IN 2000

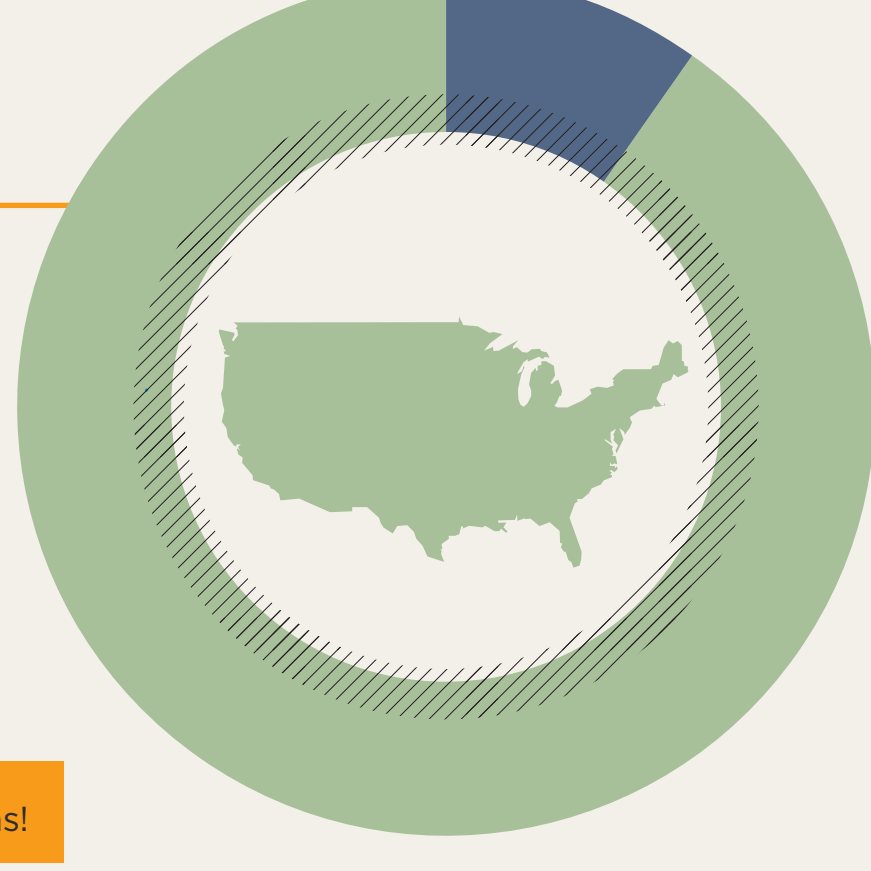
TOTAL COLLEGE ENROLLMENT:
19.7 MILLION

UP FROM
15.3 MILLION
IN 2000

CURRENT
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:

7.9%

That’s **12.3 MILLION** unemployed Americans!



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF
RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES:

7.5%

CURRENT NUMBER OF UNFILLED JOBS:
3.6 MILLION

UP FROM
3.2 MILLION
IN EARLY 2011

THE SKILLS GAP: WHY GRADS AREN’T FILLING OPEN POSITIONS

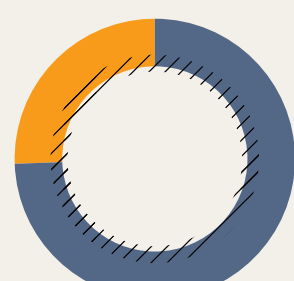


Just **50%** of college freshman in the US will graduate within 5 years

THE US RANKS 14TH
IN HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT
OUT OF 42 COUNTRIES

1.1 MILLION:
ANNUAL NUMBER
OF COLLEGE DROPOUTS

14TH
PLACE



67% of employers claim they cannot fill key positions because recent graduates lack the necessary skill sets

GREATEST SKILL DEFICITS AS RATED BY EMPLOYERS

READING/Writing/
COMMUNICATION SKILLS: **29%**

MATH SKILLS: **30%**

PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS: **52%**

TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER SKILLS: **35%**

BASIC TECHNICAL TRAINING: **43%**

HURTING THE ECONOMY

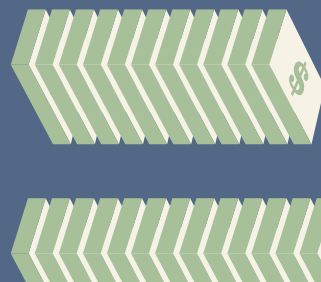


29% of students who accept loans end up dropping out

Droptouts are **4 TIMES** likelier to default on loans than graduates, greatly contributing to the \$1 trillion of student loan debt in America



COLLEGE DROPOUTS EARN \$800,000 LESS
THAN GRADUATES DURING THEIR LIFETIME

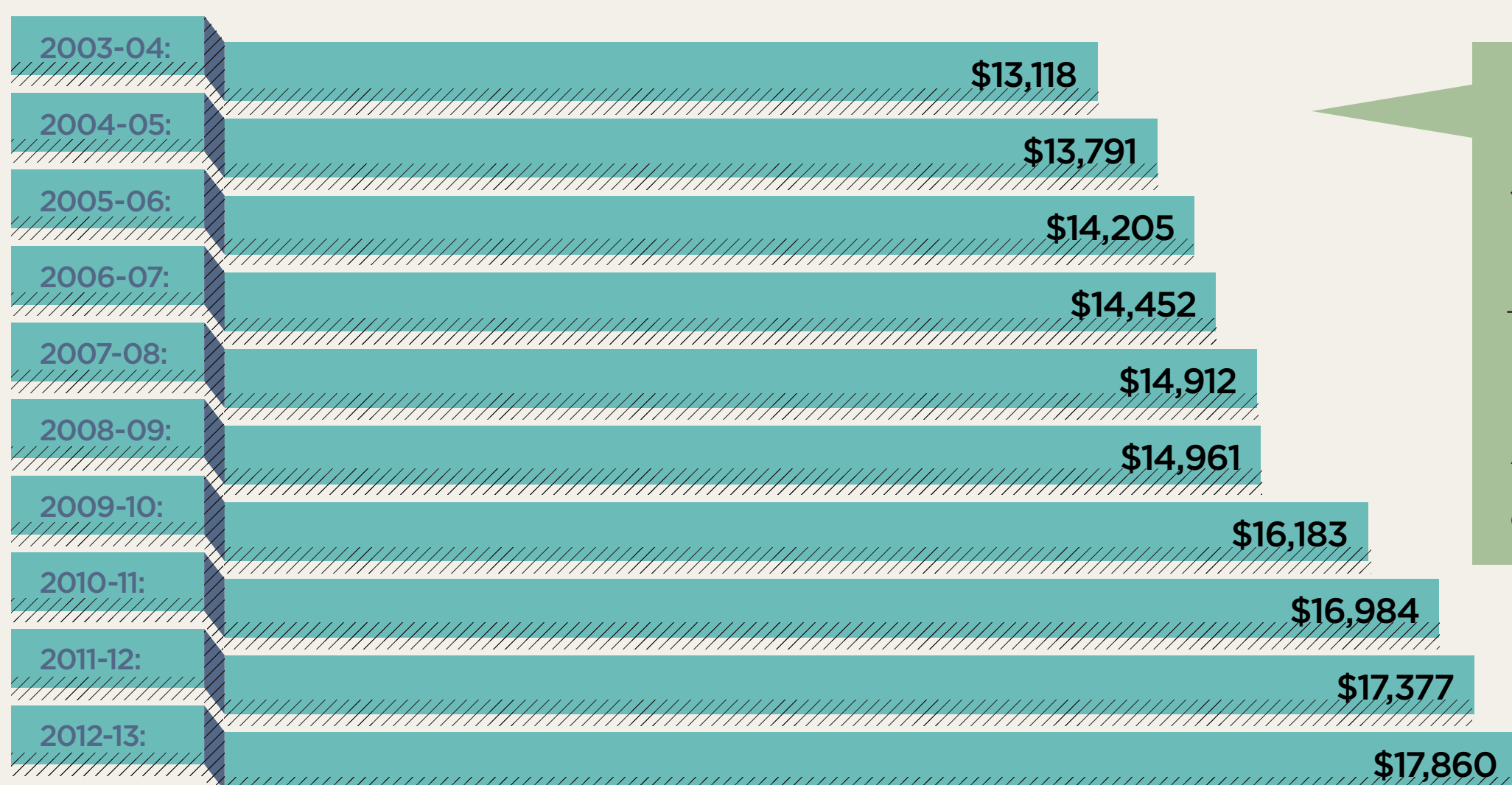


Loan debt grew **511%** from 1999 to 2011!

THIS COSTS THE ECONOMY \$4.5 BILLION+ EACH YEAR
IN LOST EARNINGS AND TAX REVENUE

DROWNING IN DEBT

AVERAGE TUITION AND ROOM AND BOARD COST OF A 4-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTION, IN 2012 DOLLARS



THAT’S AN AVERAGE
3.8%
INCREASE
YEAR OVER YEAR!

2.7%
AVERAGE RATE OF INFLATION
OVER THE SAME PERIOD

DESPITE THESE INCREASING EDUCATION COSTS, THE FEDERAL TAX EXEMPTION FOR EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE 1978

Employers can only offer up to **\$5,250** in tax-free tuition assistance

YET COLLEGE TUITION HAS INCREASED **133.3%** SINCE THE EAP’S FOUNDING



It’s no wonder **68%** of dropouts claim they quit for financial reasons



72% of students work at least part-time during school

20% of these students work full-time jobs

TRY AS THEY MAY,
THE AVERAGE STUDENT GRADUATES
\$27,253 IN DEBT!

WHAT COULD YOU DO WITH THAT MONEY?



START A FAMILY -
MEDIAN DOWN PAYMENT
ON A NEW HOUSE:
\$30,500

GET SOME NEW WHEELS -
AVERAGE COST OF NEW CAR:
\$30,300

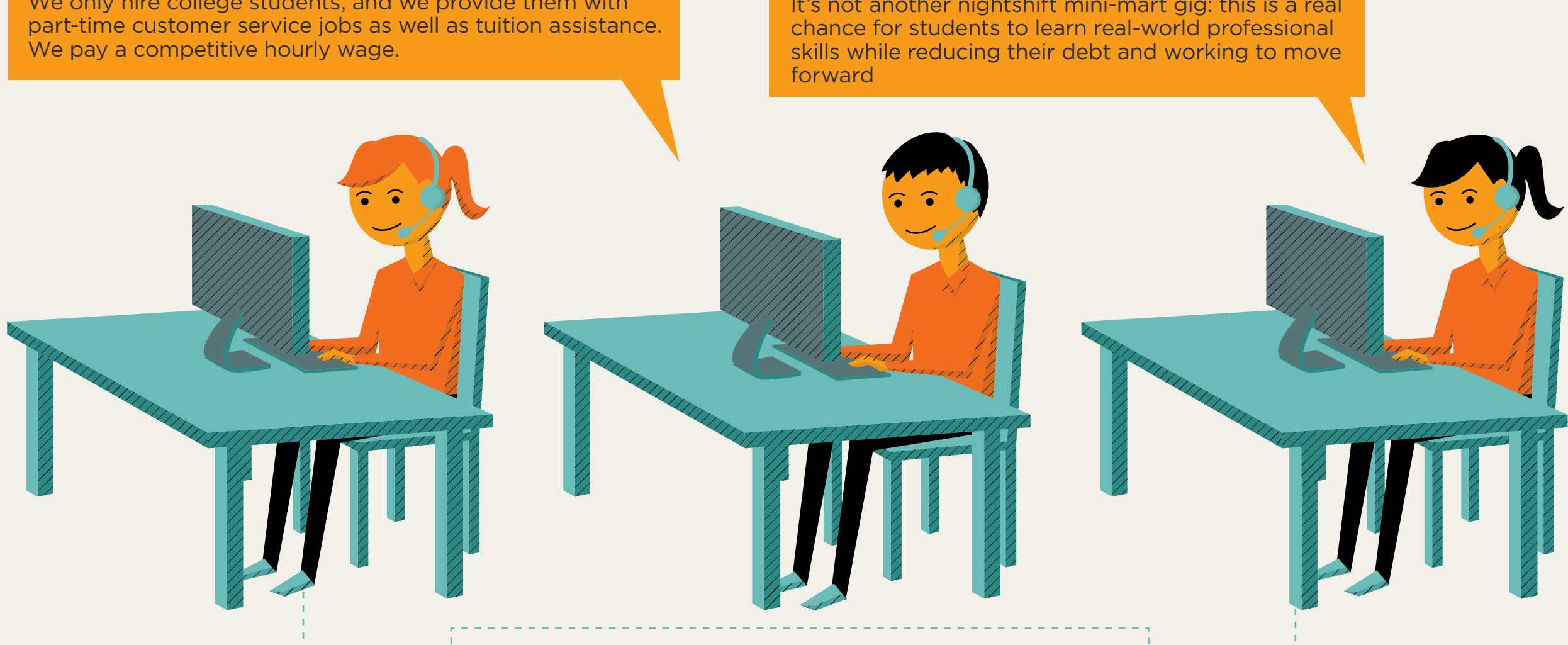
YOUR CHANCE TO CHALLENGE THE ODDS

AMERICA’S ABILITY TO COMPETE GLOBALLY IS AT STAKE

Education at Work helps bridge the skills gap blocking recent grads from success

We only hire college service jobs, and we provide them with part-time customer service jobs as well as tuition assistance. We pay a competitive hourly wage.

It’s not another nightshift mini-mart gig; this is a real chance for students to learn real-world professional skills while reducing their debt and working to move forward



[HTTP://BIT.LY/WHY-EAW](http://bit.ly/why-eaw)

#EAW

EDUCATION WORK BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

Education at Work (EAW) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing wholly outsourced or staff augmentation services for call center and back office operations of leading companies, delivered exclusively in the U.S. EAW employs an agent workforce that is made up entirely of U.S. college students actively pursuing their degrees. EAW’s clients enjoy access to a high quality domestic U.S. service environment, pricing that is competitive with offshore markets – enabling our clients to bring jobs back to America, and access an intelligent student population that can be a future talent pipeline.

College students who work for EAW enjoy competitive base wages plus tuition assistance that pays up to \$6,000/year, based on work and academic performance. Students can graduate virtually debt-free through EAW with fundamental skills that better prepare them for success in the 21st century job market. We’re fully committed to higher education and working towards solutions to America’s problems in a new way. We strive to help lessen the skills gap and student debt burden that strains the U.S. economy today and threatens our future. For more information, please visit our website.

[HTTP://WWW.EDUCATION-AT-WORK.ORG/](http://www.education-at-work.org/)

SOURCES

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